

SENATE BILL 4012

By Black

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 37, relative to resource mapping of funds used to support children.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's children are the most valuable resource the state possesses; they are the future citizens, parents, workforce, government leaders, and protectors of the state's heritage and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the molding and shaping of the state's future is best served by assuring that parents and surrogate caregivers are able to fully care for and support well the health, safety and educational needs of their children across each child's developmental lifespan, from birth through adolescence and into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, for every child the cycle of learning begins at birth and is fundamentally shaped by the care and nurture the child receives from family and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, many public service systems are implemented through multiple state and local government and private agencies, and these systems are responsible and have duties to meet the health, safety and educational needs of the state's children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the operation of these public service systems impact at some level the lives of all of Tennessee's children and youth; however, the systems do so without inter-agency planning, collaboration, and coordination of efforts sufficient to create a comprehensive vision and integrated service delivery plan that will successfully guide the growth and development of our youngest citizens; and

WHEREAS, these public service systems are funded with public dollars that come through a host of federal and state funding streams, but too often lack coordination sufficient to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness necessary to achieve desired outcomes; and

WHEREAS, an inventory of services and programs across state agencies and systems that maps the funding sources, the target populations, the performance measures in place, and the intended outcomes of such monies that come from such funding sources would greatly inform and assist the Governor and members of the General Assembly in developing policy, setting goals and making decisions regarding allocating resources; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 3, Part 1, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

§ 37-3-112.

(a) The commission shall design and oversee a resource mapping of all federal and state funding sources and streams that support the health, safety, permanence, growth, development and education of children in the state of Tennessee from conception through the age of majority or so long as they may remain in the custody of the state. The resource mapping shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An inventory of all federal and state funding sources that support children in the state of Tennessee;

(2) An inventory of all state, federal or government subsidized services and programs offered to children in the state of Tennessee, set out by program, target population, geographical region, agency or any other grouping that would assist the general assembly in determining whether there are overlapping programs that lead to duplication within the state, gaps in service delivery and any administrative inefficiencies generally;

(3) A description of the manner in which the funds are being used within the agencies or organizations, the performance measures in place to assess the use of such funding and the intended outcomes of the programs and services;

(4) Government mandates for the use of such funds, if any; and

(5) An inventory of the funds for which the state may be eligible, but is currently not receiving or using, and the reasons why such funds are not being used.

(b) The commission shall update the report each year and shall subsequently assure that the resource map is periodically and timely updated, so as to maintain a current resource map of the funds used to support children in the state.

(c) The comptroller of the treasury and each department of state government or agency in the state of Tennessee shall provide assistance upon request to the commission in effectuating the purpose of this act.

(d) On or before February 15, 2009, a preliminary report shall be provided by the commission, and on or before February 15, 2010, and each successive year thereafter, the commission shall provide a full report to the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives, the general welfare, health and human resources committee of the senate, the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, the health and human resources committee of the house of representatives, the children and family affairs committee of the house of representatives and the select committee on children and youth. The full report shall include, but not be limited to, the resource map and any recommendations, including proposed legislation, for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of programs offered to children in this state.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.